

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the formal drawings filed July 31, 2002 and for properly addressing the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statements previously filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner states, “Based on applicant’s Remarks submitted with the December 12, 2005 amendment, the Examiner is unclear what applicant is trying to claim by added language base on manipulation of an operator at the death notice accepting section of the public office.

In view of the present claim amendments, Applicant submits that the claim clearly defines the operator (one who provides an input). Furthermore, the public terminal is clearly defined in the claims as “said public office terminal” and is further qualified as a terminal that receives the input of the operator at the death notice accepting section of the public office.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner with drawn this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Abe et al (US 6,246,991; “Abe”) in view of Arbuckle (US 5,651,117). Applicant traverses this rejection as follows.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Abe and Arbuckle fail to teach or suggest, at least, the public office terminal, which “based on the input of an operator at the death notice accepting section of the public office,” either accepts a notice of death reported to the

public office (claims 1, 3, 5, 7) or is configured to receive a notice of death reported to the public office (claims 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18).

The Examiner relies on the central depository 100 of Arbuckle to disclose these features. Arbuckle describes a central depository 100 that includes reports of death 132, which are obtained by the depository from the source or sources that it monitors. (col. 4, lines 45-47) The reports of death may be derived from governmental agencies 308. (col. 6, lines 19-20) These reports are a matter of public record and, if monitored by the depository, would ordinarily be obtained daily and entered into the system manually or by modem where available in digital form. (col. 6, lines 37-39)

However, we submit that while the central depository 100 of Arbuckle may be configured to receive or accept a notice of death, the central depository 100 does not do so “based on the input of an operator at the death notice accepting section of the public office.” Moreover, with regard to the Examiner’s assertion that it would be obvious for a human operator to review and send the information after a match is found, we propose to submit that even if the central depository 100 were also provided with a human operator, the proposed modification still does not meet the recitation of an “operator at the death notice receiving section of a public office.” Therefore, the applied combination fails to teach or suggest all the features of the rejected claims.

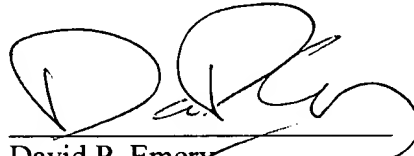
Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 18 are allowable over the applied combination of Arbuckle and Abe. Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 are allowable, at least because of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Emery
Registration No. 55,154

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 2, 2006